

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06257 301551 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 301610 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2387

S E C R E T BEIRUT 6257

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF ISA AND DA DALO- ILS

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: MASS, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE ARMS REQUESTS

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY LEBANESE FOREIGN OFFICE, AFTER CHECKING WITH ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF GENERAL GHANEM, THAT GOL WISHES KEEP ITS EMBASSY AND ITS MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON OUT OF ARMS PICTURE TO MAXIMUM DEGREE POSSIBLE. THIS APPLIES NOT ONLY TO DISCUSSING LEBANESE REQUESTS WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS BUT ALSO TO HAVING LEBANESE ATTACHE SIGN VARIOUS DOCUMENTS CONNECTED WITH ARMS PURCHASE. LEB ARMY NOT SATISFIED WITH THEIR WASHINGTON MILITARY ATTACHE' S HANDLING OF CASES TO DATE.

2. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR ALL DOCUMENTS TO BE SENT TO THIS EMBASSY FOR SIGNING BY AUTHORIZED LEBANESE OFFICIALS WITHOUT APPRECIABLY DELAYING DELIVERY TIME OF ARMS, EQUIPMENT AND MUNITIONS. THIS IS PROCEDURE ARMY AND FOREIGN OFFICE STRONGLY PREFER PROVIDED IT MEANS NO MORE THAN ONE WEEK OR TEN DAY DELAY. IF DELAY WOULD BE GREATER, THEN ARMY AND FOREIGN OFFICE WILLING SEND OFFICER TO WASHINGTON ON SPECIAL MISSION TO HANDLE ARMS DEALS. THIS WOULD, HOWEVER, CAUSE CONSIDERABLE FRICTION WITH LEBANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON.

3. REQUEST REPLY SOONEST.

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4. REQUEST DA INFORM ALL COMMANDS WHICH DEAL WITH LEBANON
AS TO WHATEVER NEW PROCEDURE IS ADOPTED.
HOUGHTON

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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